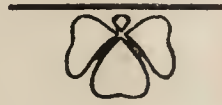


Wymondham Urban District



THE

Annual Report

for the Year
1937

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Sanitary Inspector

THE ANNUAL REPORT

for the Year 1937

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

to the

WYMONDHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Council of the
Wymondham Urban District.

I have the honour of presenting my report on the health and sanitary conditions of your district for the year ending 31st December, 1937.

1. GENERAL.

The District has an area of 10,950 acres, with a rateable value of £17,788, which is an increase of £499 and a 1d. rate realizes £70 17s. 3d. There have been no new industries started in the area, so it remains chiefly agricultural, apart from the brush making trade.

Population, estimated at mid-year, is given me as 5,148, a decrease of 25.

Council houses at the end of the year numbered 218, and were all tenanted; an increase of seven.

2. VITAL STATISTICS.

| | | | M | F |
|-------------|---|---------------------|----|----|
| Live Births | } | Legitimate | 39 | 38 |
| 81 | | Illegitimate | 1 | 3 |

This is a rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population of 15·7; that in England and Wales being 14·9.

| | | | | |
|--------------|---|---------------------|---|---|
| Still Births | } | Legitimate | 3 | 1 |
| 4 | | Illegitimate | — | — |

Gives a rate per 1,000 live and still births of 47.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES number 59, of which 25 were males and 34 females, as under:

| | M | F | TOTALS. |
|--------------------------------|---|----|---------|
| Influenza | 1 | — | 1 |
| Syphilis | — | 1 | 1 |
| Cancer | 4 | 7 | 11 |
| Cerebral Hæmorrhage ... | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Heart Diseases | 4 | 10 | 14 |
| Aneurysm | 1 | — | 1 |
| Other Circulatory Diseases ... | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Bronchitis | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Peptic Ulcer | 2 | — | 2 |
| Other Digestive Diseases ... | — | 1 | 1 |
| Nephritis (acute and chronic) | — | 1 | 1 |
| Congenital Debility | | | |
| Premature Births ... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Senility | — | 1 | 1 |
| Suicide | — | 1 | 1 |
| Other violence | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Other defined Diseases ... | 2 | 4 | 6 |

The death rate per 1,000 of the population works out at 11·0; that in England and Wales being 12·4. But making the adjustment for the sex and age composition of the population the *crude rate* becomes a *comparable rate* of 9·24.

No death is recorded from a Puerperal cause, or from Measles, Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, or from Diarrhœa (under two years of age).

INFANTILE MORTALITY. Two deaths under one year, one male and one female, both legitimate, and from congenital causes or prematurity, gives a death rate per 1,000 of live births of 24·7; that in England and Wales being 58.

3. TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of cases on the register on the 31st Dec., was 54, an increase of four in the year. Details are set out in the two following tables:

| Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Total | |
|-------------|----|---------------|----|-------|----|
| M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 12 | 18 | 12 | 12 | 24 | 30 |
| New cases : | | | | | |
| 1 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Deaths nil. | | | | | |

New cases and Mortality during 1937:

| Age Periods | New Cases, 4 | | | | Deaths, nil | | | |
|----------------|--------------|---|-----------------|---|-------------|---|-----------------|---|
| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 15 | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | | | | | | | | |
| 35 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 45 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | |
| 55 | | | | | | | | |
| 65 and upwards | | | | | | | | |
| Totals | 1 | 1 | | 2 | | | | |

4. NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(other than Tuberculosis) numbered 38: Scarlet Fever, 28 cases; Diphtheria, 2 cases; Pneumonia, 3 cases; Erysipelas, 1 case; Puerperal Pyrexia, 4 cases.

The epidemic of Scarlet Fever which was experienced in 1936 (21 cases) persisted throughout 1937. It was of a generally mild type. 18 of the cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Wicklewood. There were no deaths. The two cases of Diphtheria were sisters who contracted the disease in Norwich; they were treated at home.

5. MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The monthly Clinics were well attended, the figures being:

| Mothers | Children under 1 year | Children 1—5 years | New Cases | Total Children |
|---------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------------|
| 329 | 153 | 279 | 37 | 432 |

Number of individual children on the register for the year, 93; and the average attendance monthly, 36. It must be borne in mind that a large number of mothers included in the above attend from Hethersett, and which at the time of going to press (May), is opening a Clinic of its own.

6. HOUSING CONDITIONS.

The number of inhabited houses in the District at the end of the year was 1,591, of which 218 were owned by the Council. With a population of 5,148, this gives a house for every 3·2 persons.

THE ABATEMENT OF OVERCROWDING has, with one or two exceptions, been satisfactorily dealt with, and the difficulty mentioned in last year's report of providing two-roomed bungalows for aged couples, at an economical cost, is being overcome in the near future.

THE SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME proceeds satisfactorily, six new houses being built during the year.

Other details respecting housing conditions will be found in Mr. Maughan's report following this.

7. THE WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. Platten reports as under :

| | Water Pumped and Softened | Lime used | Alumina |
|-----------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| | gallons | lbs. | lbs. |
| January | 2,050,000 | 5,932 | 186 |
| February | 1,680,000 | 5,418 | 75 |
| March | 1,695,000 | 5,670 | 223 |
| April | 1,710,000 | 6,870 | 151 |
| May | 2,390,000 | 6,272 | 190 |
| June | 2,270,000 | 6,989 | 166 |
| July | 2,670,000 | 8,341 | 197 |
| August | 2,290,000 | 6,982 | 136 |
| September | 2,265,000 | 6,745 | 146 |
| October | 2,560,000 | 7,821 | 168 |
| November | 1,825,000 | 5,068 | 110 |
| December | 2,355,000 | 6,930 | 184 |
| | 25,760,000 | 79,038 | 1932 |
| | | (35 tons, 5 cwt., 78 lbs.) | (17 cwt., 28 lbs.) |

CONNECTIONS :

| | From Main to Stop-cock. | From Stop-cock to Premises. |
|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| January | 2 | 8 |
| February | 6 | 11 |
| March | — | 2 |
| April | 1 | 10 |
| May | 1 | 4 |
| June | 1 | 5 |
| July | 7 | 10 |
| August | 2 | 9 |
| September | 5 | 16 |
| October | 4 | 11 |
| November | 4 | 5 |
| December | 3 | 14 |
| | 36 | 105 |

METERS INSTALLED : 3.

The Parish of Hingham consumed 1,692,900 gals. from 1st January, 1937 to 31st December, 1937.

Average daily consumption in Wymondham, 70,575 gals.

A recent bacteriological analysis reads: "This water is of great organic and bacteriological purity and free from all trace of pollution. It is of excellent quality for drinking and all the purposes of a public supply."

Water connections made to houses during the year were 81, and the total now connected is 770, including the 218 Council houses.

8. DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE & SCAVENGING.

Mr. Maughan reports fully on these. The offensive odour at the outfall works has practically ceased. I should like to see the anti-litter campaign strengthened.

9. MILK IN THE SCHOOLS.

This scheme is carried on as previously. See further, under paragraph 11, Physical Fitness and Nutrition.

10. THE SWIMMING BATHS.

Are kept in a sanitary condition and the public make full use of them during the summer months.

11. PHYSICAL FITNESS CAMPAIGN.

The Council have appointed a Sub-Committee to consider what action can usefully be taken to further this desirable object. It appears that the provision of a suitable recreation ground is a prime necessity, and I would like to see this acquired as soon as possible.

With the whole question of PHYSICAL FITNESS is linked up that of adequate NUTRITION from birth to adolescence, and following up my suggestions on this point in last year's report, I submitted certain concrete proposals to you, the gist of them being:

- (a) The provision of accredited milk at a reduced rate, (say 2d. a pint), to expectant and nursing mothers of the working classes, on application.
- (b) The same for each child up to the age of five years.
- (c) The milk to be supplied through the ordinary channels by voucher to the producer—retailer.
- (d) The scheme to be financed by the County Council, who in turn should get the necessary supplies at a cheaper rate with Government assistance.

If the Milk Policy of the Government as outlined at present becomes operative, some such scheme could become practicable. The next step therefore lies with the Government.

12. SUMMARY.

1937 has been a healthy year. The birth rate has risen from 11'0 to 15'7, and the death rate is much the same as last year at 11'0. With the elimination of slum dwellings, the abatement of overcrowding, the provision of a recreation ground, Wymondham with its excellent water supply and sanitary and social services should attract a larger population.

I desire to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the Council and its officials for the ready help afforded me as your Medical Officer during the year.

ALEX. P. AGNEW, M.B., C.M.

SANITARY INSPECTORS' REPORT

To the Chairman and Members of the Wymondham
Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit herewith my third annual report for the year ending December 31st, 1937, relating to the sanitary circumstances of the area.

HOUSING.

Since my last report the Housing Act of 1936 has come into force, repealing the major parts of the 1930 and 1935 Acts, and defining the accommodation to be provided, proportionate to the size of the family, in new houses provided for purposes of slum clearance or abatement of overcrowding. The number of inhabited houses in the district in 1937 was 1,591. During the year the Council provided six new houses in pursuance of their slum clearance programme, and twenty-one new houses were provided by private enterprise. The provision of additional houses by the Council is attended by some financial difficulty. Assuming an average sized family of five, the building, land, water and drainage costs, but excluding roads, averages £440; and this amount requires, with a sixty year loan period, plus an allowance for district rates and maintenance, a gross weekly rental of approximately 10/- per week, which is higher than the average rent paying capacity of those inhabitants requiring to be re-housed. The number of houses owned by the Council at the end of the year was 218.

HOUSING RETURNS.

| | | |
|----|---|----|
| 1. | Total number of houses inspected, (under the Public Health or Housing Act) | 62 |
| 2. | Number of inspections made for the purpose ... | 62 |
| 3. | Number of dwelling houses (included under the above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | 62 |
| 4. | Number of inspections made for the purpose ... | 67 |
| 5. | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation... .. | 14 |
| 6. | Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to in (5) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 9 |
| 7. | Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers | 9 |

HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | 36 |
| Number of families dwelling therein | 36 |
| Number of persons dwelling therein | 226 |
| Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | 1 |
| Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | Nil |
| Number of persons concerned in such cases ... | Nil |
| Number of cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | Nil |

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

| | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 8. | Proceedings under the Housing Acts, 1930 and 1936 : | |
| | (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 5 |
| | (b) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of informal notices : | |
| | By owners ... | 5 |
| | By the local authority | Nil |

| | |
|---|-----|
| (c) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ... | 13 |
| (d) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders ... | 9 |
| (e) Demolition by informal notice ... | Nil |
| (f) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made ... | Nil |
| (g) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit ... | Nil |
| 9. Proceedings under the Public Health Act : | |
| (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... | 3 |
| (b) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of informal notice | |
| By owners ... | 3 |
| By the local authority | Nil |

WATER SUPPLY.

The piped water supply to the greater number of dwelling houses within the area is efficiently maintained ; no complaints as to quality or quantity having been received from the consumers during the year covered by this report. During 1936 an agreement to afford a bulk supply to the parish of Hingham was entered into and the supply was commenced on May 29th, 1936. During 1937 the total average daily consumption of pumped and softened water had risen to 75,213 gallons, as compared with 54,000 during the previous year. During the year extensions to the distribution mains for supplies to twenty-two new Council houses at Silfield, and for an improved supply to Tuttle's Lane houses were made. It is satisfactory to note that additional service supplies are being taken from the mains ; 105 such connections having been made during the year. The water as pumped is softened from 17·5 to 7 degrees of hardness by a lime reduction process, and afterwards filtered through pressure filters.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewerage system generally is working satisfactorily. During the year extensions to the sewers have been made at Silfield for the drainage of new houses, and the tanks at the

disposal works have been repaired. Since my last report forty-four additional premises have been connected to the public sewers, excluding newly erected buildings. This figure is an improvement on the previous year. A sample of the final effluent from the disposal works was analysed in September, 1937, and the Analyst reported that "this is a most satisfactory effluent with a high degree of nitration and moderate solids in suspension. In respect of putrescible matter, it is of better quality than the sample examined in October, 1936." The use of alumino-ferric to hasten the precipitation of soapy wastes is being continued. Since my last report two additional beds for sludge drying have been formed and put into use, and some repairs to the Council's buildings at the works were carried out during the year. The council is now considering the provision of sewerage facilities to twenty-two existing houses in Tuttle's Lane which are now drained to cesspools.

RIVERS POLLUTION PREVENTION ACTS.

No complaints as to pollution of rivers or streams within the district were received during the year; nor was it considered necessary at any time to have suspected pollutions analysed.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The sanitary circumstances of the factories in the district are satisfactory, and the sanitary accommodation at the two larger factories has been enlarged.

SHOPS' ACTS.

The administration of Section 10, (3), (4), (5) of the Act of 1934, is dealt with by the District Council, and during the year seventeen such premises affected by these statutory provisions have been inspected. In each case the circumstances were found to be satisfactory.

MILK AND DAIRIES' ORDERS.

During the period covered by this report, all dairies and cowsheds in the district have been inspected, and there is nothing adverse to report. The majority of the milk traders in the district are licensed annually for the production of Grade A milk, and before a license is issued the premises must be structurally and otherwise suitable. The collection of samples for analysis under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1923-36, from milk producers in the district is dealt with by the District Council. During the period covered by this report eighty-eight such samples were collected and taken to the

County Council laboratory at Norwich. Of this number thirty-seven failed to pass the laboratory tests at the first periodical sampling. The premises at which the Grade A milk is produced are maintained in a clean and satisfactory condition.

A classification of the eighty-eight samples above referred to is as follows :—

| Tested for | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| General Cleanliness | Coliform Bacillus |
| 76 | 12 |

BAKE-HOUSES AND SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

The bake-houses and slaughter-houses in the district are inspected from time to time to ascertain whether the requirements of the Orders and Regulations are being carried out. With the exception of occasional defects of a minor character, which are usually remedied by the person responsible without delay, the condition of the premises is satisfactory.

PUBLIC HEALTH. MEAT REGULATIONS.

During the year 1937 the following carcasses were examined in accordance with the Regulations, Section 3 :— Beasts, 31 ; Calves, 4 ; Sheep, 38 ; Pigs, 103. Of these, eight carcasses were condemned as unfit for human consumption. The retail shops in the district are fitted with cold storage appliances and the premises are maintained in a clean condition. No cases of food poisoning from the consumption of meat have been reported.

Details of the inspections made, etc., in tabular form are as follows :—

| Carcases inspected and condemned : | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-------------------|------|-----------|-------|------|------|
| | | | Cattle, excluding | | Sheep and | | | |
| | | | Cows | Cows | Calves | Lambs | Pigs | |
| Number killed | ... | ... | | | | | | |
| Number inspected | ... | ... | 4 | 27 | 4 | 38 | 103 | |
| All diseases except Tuberculosis : | | | | | | | | |
| Whole Carcases condemned | | | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | |
| Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned | | | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis | | | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| Tuberculosis only : | | | | | | | | |
| Whole Carcases condemned | | | 1 | 3 | Nil | Nil | 4 | |
| Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned | | | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis | | | ... | ... | 25% | 11% | — | 3·8% |

DISINFECTION.

Following cases of infectious disease, ten dwelling houses were disinfected during the year. No case of bug infestation has been recorded.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The removal of domestic refuse from the greater number of houses in the district is carried out weekly by annual contract; the collected wastes being dumped and covered with a view to land reclamation on a low lying site near to the London Road and some distance away from occupied houses. The work of collection generally is carried out satisfactorily, and the covering of the dumped material, the most important factor in disposal by this method, is done by the Council. No complaints as to nuisance from the disposal site were received during the year covered by this report. Road and gulley cleansing and snow clearing are carried out by direct labour.

TOWN PLANNING.

Since my last report considerable progress has been made by the Joint Committee in the preparation of the planning scheme covering the Council's district, and the draft scheme having been completed, it is now being considered by the Council with a view to its approval.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, &c.

| | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. | Number of inspections made | ... | ... | 67 |
| 2. | Number of statutory notices served | ... | ... | Nil |
| 3. | Number of informal notices served | ... | ... | 8 |
| 4. | Number of houses provided with new drainage and connected to sewers | ... | ... | 44 |
| 5. | Public buildings provided with new drainage and connected to sewers | ... | ... | Nil |
| 6. | Houses provided with new drainage and cess-pools | ... | ... | Nil |
| 7. | Defective vault closets abolished and new E.C.'s provided | ... | ... | 2 |
| 8. | Earth closets converted to water closets | ... | ... | 28 |
| 9. | House drainage nuisances remedied | ... | ... | 11 |
| 10. | Refuse accumulations remedied | ... | ... | 2 |
| 11. | Animals improperly kept | ... | ... | Nil |
| 12. | Foul ditches cleansed | ... | ... | 7 |

In conclusion, I would like to thank the members of the Council, the Clerk and Medical Officer of Health for their valuable and ready support at all times.

Yours obediently,

ROBT. W. MAUGHAN,

M.R.S.I., M.Inst.S.E.